

Honorable Anibal Acevedo Vila  
Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico  
La Fortaleza  
P.O. Box 9020082  
San Juan, P.R. 00902-0082

Honorable Governor Acevedo Vila:

I wish to extend to you my most sincere congratulations on your recent election victory.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has had a long and cordial relationship with Puerto Rico's operating boards, agencies and authorities.

We would like to bring to your attention EPA's concern with the critical problem of solid waste management in Puerto Rico. As you may know, Federal law prohibits the existence of "open dumps", which are landfills that do not comply with Federal/Commonwealth requirements. Many of Puerto Rico's landfills are considered "open dumps".

EPA will be contacting the Puerto Rico Solid Waste Management Authority (SWMA) and the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board (EQB), by letter, to request an acceptable plan of action and schedule to bring the "open dumps" into compliance with Federal/Commonwealth landfill operating requirements.

We urge you to make solid waste management a top priority for your Administration. Landfills which operate in compliance with regulatory criteria will protect Puerto Rico's environment and its citizens and provide the necessary infrastructure for continued sustainable economic development. Please contact me at (212)637-5000 or have your staff contact Ms. Dore Laposta at (212)637-4000, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Callahan

Acting Regional Administrator